EPA/CDC:
National and International Collaborations on Health and the Environment

William Sonntag, Jr., OEI, EPA and Hal Zenick, Ph.D., ORD, EPA
Michael A. McGeehin, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., DEHHE/NCEH/CDC and Judith R. Qualters, Ph.D., EHTB/DEHHE/NCEH/CDC

Background

Pew Commission: Environmental Health Review
• Environmental health system was inadequate and fragmented
• Responsibilities scattered among agencies
• Unable to link environmental and health databases
• Chronic conditions account for 4 out of every 5 deaths in the United States
• Answers needed about the role of the environment on health outcomes

Recommended a "Nationwide Health Tracking Network for diseases and exposures"
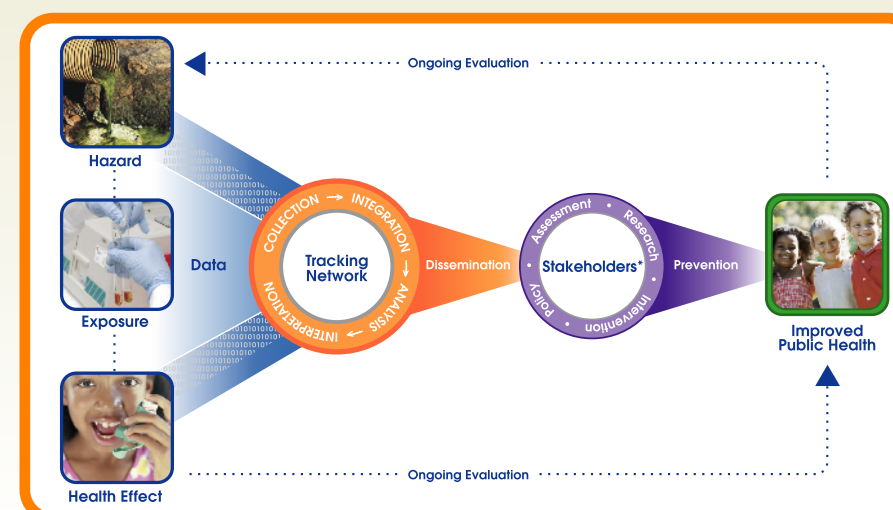
EPA's Environmental Information Exchange Network
The Exchange Network (www.exchangenetwork.net) was developed to achieve environmental and human health protection goals—traditional program activities and environment and health-indicators support. The Exchange Network provides a platform for the exchange of data for new business needs, analysis tools to support indicators, and integration of health and environmental information. There are now 40 operational data exchange nodes with states.

Environmental Information eXchange Network

CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program funded by Congress in FY2002
The Tracking Program will improve community health through the use of information from integrated environmental and public health data sources. As the cornerstone of the Program, the Tracking Network will integrate information on environmental hazards, human exposure to environmental hazards, and health effects potentially related to exposure to environmental hazards.

MOU: EPA and HHS (CDC and ATSDR)
The purpose of the MOU is to advance efforts to achieve mutual environmental public health goals and strengthen the bridge between the environmental and public health communities by:
• Linking EPA Exchange Network and CDC Tracking Network
• Sharing of timely and reliable environmental and public health data from CDC and EPA networks

Improving Data Utility, Methods and Tools

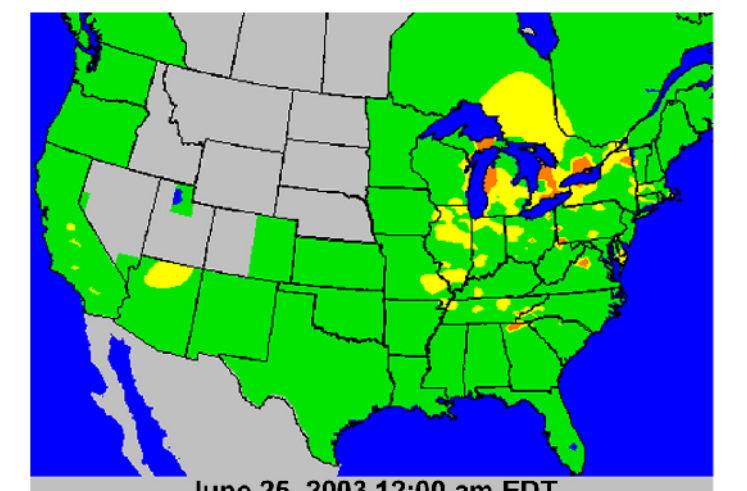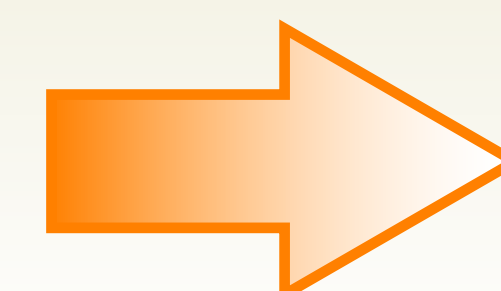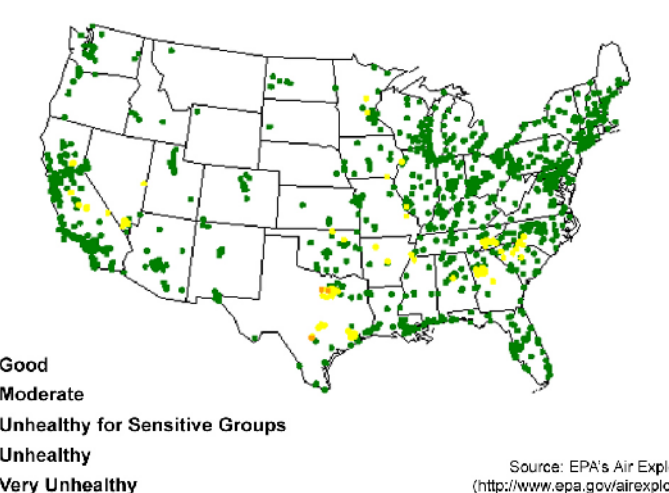**Example: Public Health Air Surveillance Evaluation Project (PHASE)**
Partners: CDC, Maine, New York, Wisconsin, and EPA
The purpose of this project is to demonstrate the advantages and limitations of methods of generating air-quality characterization surveillance data that can be routinely available to link with public health surveillance data.

Expected Products:
• Routinely available modeled air quality data for use with asthma and cardiovascular hospital data
• Guide for using PHASE information for tracking purposes
• Analytic software
• Peer-reviewed scientific publications on methods, evaluation results, and lessons learned

Ozone AQI Values by site on 06/20/2003

June 25, 2003 12:00 am EDT

State and Local Activities: CDC's Tracking Program and EPA Health-Related Challenge Grants
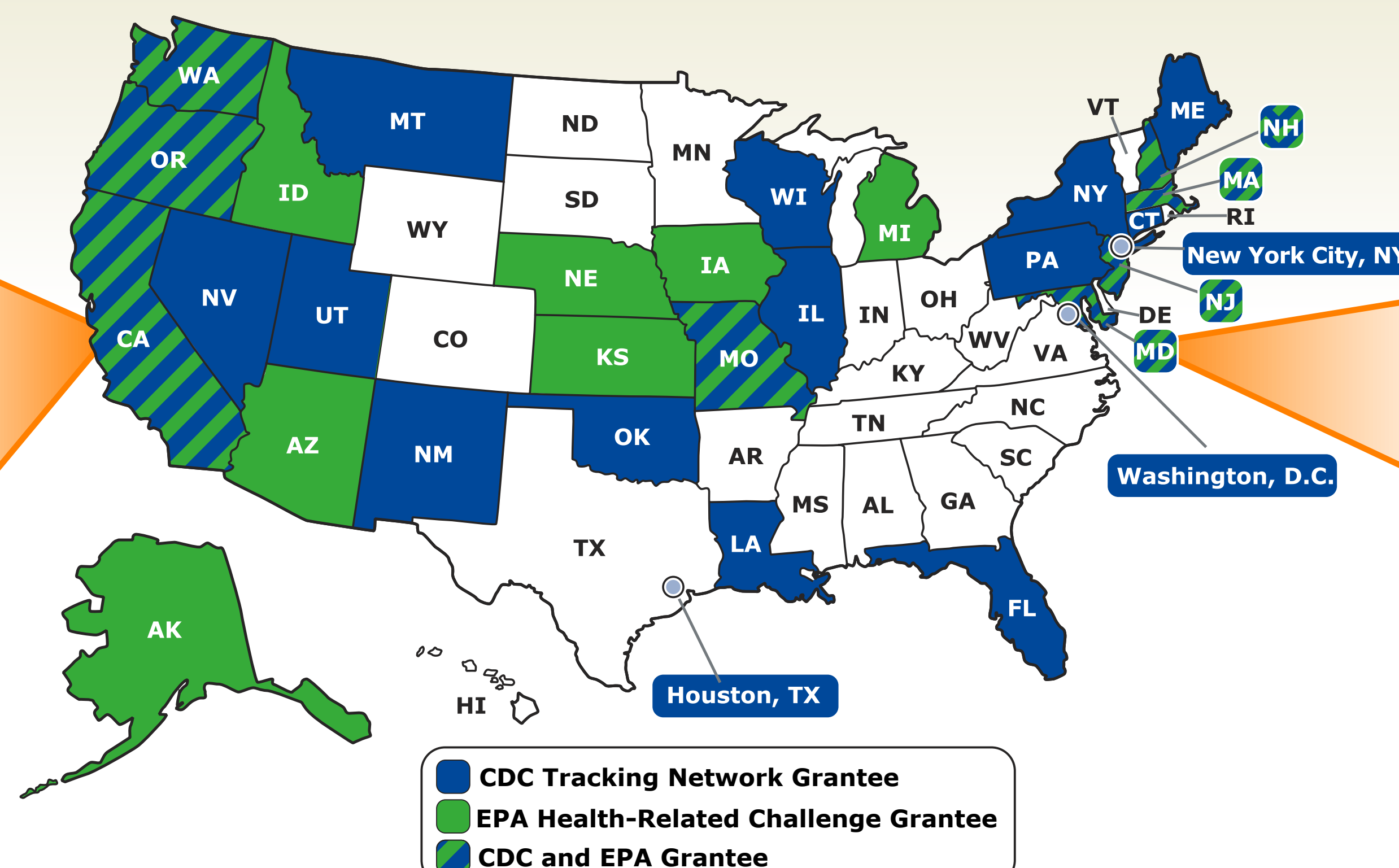
California
CDC Tracking Network:
Conducted two projects: (1) the Alameda County Demonstration Project explored surveillance issues of preterm birth and low birthweight, asthma, and exposure to traffic pollution in the County; and (2) the Central Valley/South Coast Children's Environmental Health Tracking Project is examining the geographic variation between preterm birth, term low birth weight, mental retardation, autism, and SIDS, with airborne hazard data and data from the State Pesticide Use Reporting system.

EPA Exchange Network:
CA Department of Pesticide Regulation is constructing a Web-based, integrated pesticide-use tracking system (PestTrak) to exchange data with other state, local, and federal entities through the CA EPA's node on the Exchange Network.

Maryland
CDC Tracking Network:
MD Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Department of the Environment evaluated: (1) the contribution of ozone and PM2.5 on childhood asthma and childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia; and (2) the use of remote sensing to identify crops in four rural counties, determine distribution of pesticide use, and link to birth outcomes.

EPA Exchange Network:
The MD Department of the Environment will plan and implement the seamless generation, exchange, integration, and visualization of drinking water quality data and surface water monitoring data for use by the state and other Exchange Network partners.
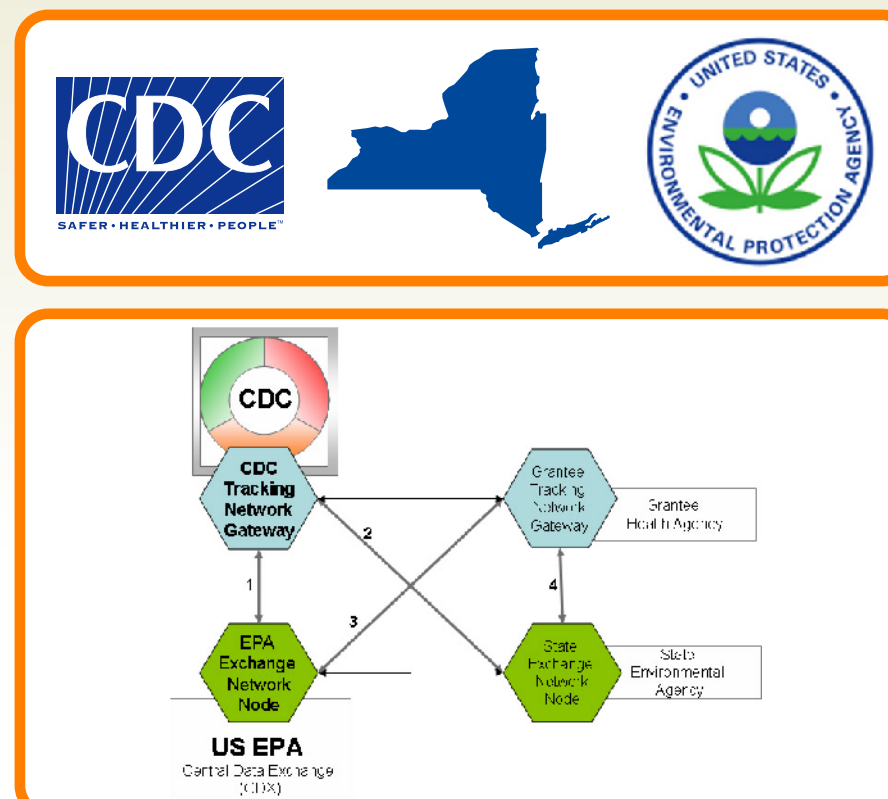
New York City, NY
Washington, D.C.
Houston, TX

■ CDC Tracking Network Grantee
■ EPA Health-Related Challenge Grantee
▨ CDC and EPA Grantee

Interoperability of Data Systems

New York Pilot Data Exchange Project
• Collaboration between CDC, EPA, NY State
• Examined interoperability issues between CDC's Public Health Information Network/Tracking Network and EPA's Exchange Network
• Successfully established an integration broker to allow ongoing, systematic exchange of air data between the State's Department of Health and Department of Environmental Conservation

Tracking and Exchange Network Interoperability Pilot
• Addressing data exchange mechanisms at the Agency
• Enterprise level
• Will pilot a secure means to move data among CDC, EPA, and states with minimal translation

Environmental Health Indicators

CDC and EPA working together for better coordination:
• Comparing indicators to identify common purposes, priorities, and measures
• Working with CSTE and states to develop and pilot indicators that can be used for information dissemination and policy making
• Partnering with European colleagues, European Environment Agency, WHO Europe, United Nations Environment Programme, and the European Commission, to understand differences and similarities of indicators in Europe and the U.S.
• The Border Indicators Task Force published the first Indicators Report under the Border 2012 program, which includes about 20 indicators from the Bi-national Set and is available at http://www.epa.gov/r6border/pdf/bitf_prog_200604.pdf

CDC
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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